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Montréal Communiqué

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TWO YMCA'S AMALGAMATE

Operations of the West Island and Lachine-Dorval Branches of the Montreal YMCA have been amalgamated in a move to avoid duplication of effort and broaden the range of activities available in both constituencies.

This closer relationship will immediately place YMCA specialists from both branches at the disposal of all communities involved.

Phil Macdonald of West Island YMCA heads the combined units. Jim Turner, formerly in charge of Lachine-Dorval, is associate executive, with special responsibility for staff supervision and North Shore area development.

Bill Piggott assumes major responsibility for out-reach work programs and services in Pointe Claire and Beaconsfield. He is backed in these communities by Murray Horn, who also remains in charge of the YMCA's day camp complex on Ile Perrot..

Al Whittal is planning, supervising and helping implement programs and services in Chateauguay, Lachine and Dorval. Peggy Humby has been assigned to co-ordinate and develop special programs and skill-development activities in all communities.

Bill Burke will provide overall direction of physical education and take charge of the West Island YMCA ski school.

Joe Mallette takes responsibility for combined business services.

West Island YMCA began in rented premises in 1963 in Pointe Claire, and moved into its own building in 1965. This serves as an administration and training facility as well as a program and meeting centre.

The branch provides a wide range of physical and recreational activities for all ages, many of them carried on in school gyms, church halls, school rooms and civic centres.

Its ski school, for example, serves all ages. With an enrollment of more than 2,000, it is the largest operation of its kind in Canada. Its swimming operation involves about 5,000 persons. There are fitness classes for ladies and for businessmen, as well as training programs for many sports.

At the same time, the branch is providing more programs to strengthen family relationships and is developing new ways to help young people to find constructively enjoyable alternatives to such contemporary concerns as drug-taking, boredom and the revolt against adult values and institutions.

In the communities served by Lachine-Dorval Branch prior to the amalgamation, the emphasis will remain on young people and their concerns.

The Lachine building has been completely refurbished as a program centre.